## In the Claims

- 1. (Cancelled)
- 2. (Cancelled)
- 3. (Cancelled)

private port number associated with the selected gateway.

- 4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 21, further comprising: forwarding the subsequent request from the load balancer to the selected gateway, the subsequent request including the defined port number of the selected gateway.
- 5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:
  receiving at the load balancer a response to the subsequent request from the selected
  gateway, the response including the defined port number of the selected gateway;
  translating at the load balancer the defined port number of the selected gateway to the
- 6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising: forwarding the response to the client terminal from the load balancer, the response including the private port number associated with the selected gateway.
- 7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4 21, further comprising: maintaining an association between the client terminal and the selected gateway at the load balancer.
- 8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4 21, wherein the information identifying the selected gateway includes an Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.
  - 9. (Cancelled)

- 10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 9 22, further comprising: forwarding the subsequent request to the selected gateway from the load balancer, the subsequent request including the Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.
- 11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising: receiving at the load balancer a response to the subsequent request from the selected gateway, the response including the Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway; forwarding the response to the client terminal from the load balancer.
- 12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4 22, further comprising: maintaining an association between the client terminal and the selected gateway at the load balancer.
  - 13. (Cancelled)
- 14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 13 27, wherein the information identifying the selected gateway may be a private port number associated with the selected gateway.
- 15. (Currently Amended) The method apparatus of Claim 13 27, wherein the information associated with identifying the selected gateway is an Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.
- 16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 13 27, further comprising: means for maintaining an association between the client terminal and the selected gateway.
  - 17. (Cancelled)
  - 18. (Cancelled)

- 19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 17 23, wherein the load balancer maintains an association between the client terminal and the selected gateway.
- 20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 17 23, wherein the information identifying the selected gateway includes one of a private port number associated with the selected gateway and an Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.
  - 21. (New) A method for re-directing a client session, comprising: receiving a request from a client terminal at a load balancer;

selecting one of a plurality of gateways being managed by the load balancer to process the request;

sending a re-direct message to the client terminal from the load balancer, the re-direct message including information identifying the selected gateway;

receiving at the load balancer from the client terminal a subsequent request associated with the re-direct message, the subsequent request including a private port number associated with the selected gateway; and

translating at the load balancer the private port number associated with the selected gateway to a defined port number of the selected gateway.

22. (New) A method for re-directing a client session, comprising: receiving a request from a client terminal at a load balancer;

selecting one of a plurality of gateways being managed by the load balancer to process the request;

sending a re-direct message to the client terminal from the load balancer, the re-direct message including information identifying the selected gateway; and

receiving at the load balancer from the client terminal a subsequent request associated with the re-direct message, the subsequent request including the Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.

23. (New) An apparatus for re-directing a client session, comprising:

a load balancer operable to receive an initial request from a client terminal, the load balancer operable to select one of a plurality of gateways managed by the load balancer to process the request, the load balancer operable to send a re-direct message to the client terminal in response to the request, the re-direct message including information identifying the selected gateway;

wherein the load balancer receives a subsequent request from the client terminal, the subsequent request including the information identifying the selected gateway, the load balancer operable to forward the request to the selected gateway.

24. (New) A method for re-directing a client session, comprising:

receiving a request from a client terminal at a load balancer;

selecting one of a plurality of gateways being managed by the load balancer to process the request;

sending a re-direct message to the client terminal from the load balancer, the re-direct message including information identifying the selected gateway;

receiving at the load balancer from the client terminal a subsequent request associated with the re-direct message, the subsequent request including information identifying the selected gateway; and

forwarding the subsequent request to the selected gateway from the load balancer.

- 25. (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein the subsequent request includes an Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.
- 26. (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein the subsequent request includes a private port number of the selected gateway.

27. (New) An apparatus for re-directing a client session, comprising: means for receiving a request from a client terminal;

means for selecting one of a plurality of gateways being managed to process the request;

means for sending a re-direct message to the client terminal, the re-direct message including information identifying the selected gateway; and

means for receiving at the load balancer from the client terminal a subsequent request associated with the re-direct message, the subsequent request including the information identifying the selected gateway.